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The
FLORIDA BUGGIST

Official Organ of The Florida Entomological Society, Gainesville,
Florida.

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In this issue we print a very timely article by Mr. W. W. Yothers of the Orlando laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology. To every citrus grower reading this article it will become plain, we feel confident, that he needs *The Florida Buggist*. He might also attend the Citrus Seminar at the University Oct. 9-12 and the seminar class during the preceding week.

During the quarter covered by this number the extra large sweet potato crop of the state will be largely harvested. Especially opportune, therefore, is the article by Mr. Bragdon on the sweet-potato root weevil. Mr. Bragdon has by no means exaggerated the dangerous character of this pest. Indeed we feel that he might have put considerable more "frightfulness" into the article and still been well within the truth. Ever since the discovery of the weevil in one of our chief potato producing counties the seriousness of the situation has been apparent. The history of this infestation should impress upon our readers the importance of promptly reporting to some proper authority the presence of any new crop pest. Altho this weevil has undoubtedly been in Baker County for some years, not until last November when specimens were brought to the Experiment Station was the matter reported to any entomologist.

In this number appears the major portion of a paper read by Mr. C. E. Wilson before the June meeting of the Society. The control of malaria is perhaps the greatest problem before the South today, except of course the trouncing of the Germans. The conservation of human life and health is of vastly more importance than that of wealth. Altho our State has much less

malaria than some others it still has too much. The editor has on several occasions gotten himself "in bad" with certain citizens of a "boosting" frame of mind by this line of talk but is still willing to repeat the offense. Indeed to mention malaria in a real estate office is nearly as serious a breach of etiquette as to mention earthquakes in California.

"For every evil under the sun
There is a remedy, or there's none.
If there is one try and find it;
If there is none never mind it."

Now it is not necessary even to try and find the remedy for malaria. It is well known. We need only apply it. Hence the man that adopts the "never mind it" policy is, instead of a real booster, in the end a heavy "knocker," as he hinders and puts off the day of the State's clean up and highest development. He is more foolish than the proverbial ostrich which hides its head so it cannot see the lion. An ostrich squatting on the ground with its head hidden looks like a stone and may escape the lion's notice. But no such "camouflage" will work against *Anopheles* nor for long against the prospective settler. There are too many posters advertising "chill tonics" on our trees and bridges. While it is true that we may secure almost perfect safety anywhere in Florida by properly screening our houses and staying in them after dark, we have not done our full duty to our communities by retiring behind our screens. Let us keep up the agitation until our neighbors' houses *and our churches* are screened. Many of our citizens are too accustomed to mosquitoes to notice or attach the proper importance to mosquitoes. An amusing illustration of this occurred a few months since. A lecturer was talking on the subject of screens and mosquitoes. A lady in front of us turned to her companion and remarked: "We don't have any screens in our windows and we don't have any mosquitoes," and even as she spoke she was vigorously scratching a collection of typical swellings on her arm.

ANT

While an ant was wandering under the shade of the tree of Phaeton, a drop of amber enveloped the tiny insect; thus she, who in life was disregarded, became precious by death.

(Martial—*Epigrams* Bk. VI, Ep. 15.)